

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 DODE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1195

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

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USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

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FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: PUBLIC AFFAIRS: OESER POST-PLENARY PRESS
CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 26, 1975

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: WARSAW PACT HELD PRESS CONFERENCE
AFTER OPENING PLENARY OF SEVENTH NEGOTIATION ROUND OF
THE VIENNA TROOP REDUCTION TALKS. GDR REPRESENTATIVE
OESER FACED ABOUT 25 MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES, MANY OF THEM
FROM EAST BLOC. PRESENTATION, WHICH CONTAINED NO SURPRISES
OR NEW ELEMENTS, WAS TAKEN IN LARGE PART FROM OESER'S
PLENARY PRESENTATION WHICH IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED IT.
OESER INVOKED SPIRIT OF HELSINKI, AND SOUGHT TO MAKE CASE
THAT EAST HAD ALREADY DEMONSTRATED FLEXIBILITY DURING THE
NEGOTIATIONS AND THAT NEXT MOVE WAS UP TO WEST. OESER
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HANDLED FOLLOW-UP Q'S AND A'S WELL (REPORTED SEPTTEL.

HE RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ON POSSIBLE EASTERN REACTION TO WESTERN PROPOSAL TO REDUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY SAYING THAT THE EASTERN POSITION ON INCLUSION OF NUCLEARS IS WELL KNOWN, THAT PACT WILL TAKE ALL WESTERN MOVES UNDER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, THAT HE SEES NOTHING NEW ON THE HORIZON NOW, AND THAT THE EAST WOULD HAVE TO SEE EXACTLY WHAT KIND OF FUTURE WESTERN PROPOSALS MIGHT BE MADE BEFORE DETERMINING ITS REACTION. HE GAVE A CAUTIOUSLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE WHEN ASKED WHETHER THE EAST WOULD ALTER ITS STAND AGAINST ASYMMETRICAL REDUCTIONS IF THE WEST OFFERED TO WITHDRAW NUCLEAR WEAPONS. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION, OESER CLAIMED THAT RECENT INFORMATION IN THE WESTERN PRESS INDICATED THAT THE TWO NEW US BRIGADES WOULD BE AN ADDITION TO TOTAL US GROUND FORCE STRENGTH RATHER THAN REPLACEMENT FOR WITHDRAWN SUPPORT FORCES AS HAD BEEN CLAIMED. IN RESPONSE TO OTHER QUESTIONS, OESER REPEATEDLY STRUCK THE THEME THAT THE NEXT MOVE IN VIENNA IS UP TO THE WESTERN ALLIES. TEXT OF PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT FOLLOWS. END SUMMARY

BEGIN TEXT:

1. AT THE START OF THE PRESENT SEVENTH ROUND OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE, I AM PLEASED TO HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE TO SPEAK TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS ABOUT PROBLEMS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. THE MORE SO, BECAUSE THE PROCESS OF DETENTE HAS RECENTLY LED TO IMPORTANT RESULTS CEMENTING THE CHANGE FROM COLD WAR TO DETENTE THUS GIVING FRESH IMPETUS TO OUR NEGOTIATIONS AS WELL.

2. THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE HAS SHOWN HOW COMPLICATED PROBLEMS OF THE PEACFUL CO-EXISTENCE OF PEOPLES CAN BE SOLVED TO MUTUAL ADVANTAGE IF ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE AWARE OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY AND IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY STRIVE FOR SOLUTIONS.

3. AFTER HELSINKI THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE RAISE THE JUSTIFIED QUESTION OF HOW THE RESULTS OF POLITICAL DETENTE WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MATERIALIZED AND WHAT CONCRETE MEASURES AGAINST THE ARMS RACE AND FOR THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY CONFRONTATION WILL BE AGREED UPON TO MAKE POLITICAL DETENTE IRREVERSIBLE.

4. WE HOLD THE VIEW THAT RESULTS ALSO OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA ARE NECESSARY AND POSSIBLE. IN THIS CONNECTION I SHOULD LIKE TO REFER TO THE SPEECH DELIVERED BY THE FIRST SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST UNITY

PARTY OF GERMANY, ERICH HONECKER, IN HELSINKI, WHO STATED:

5. "WE NOTICE WITH CONCERN THAT MILITARY DETENTE IS FALLING SHORT OF PROGRESSING POLITICAL DETENTE. THE ARMS RACE, IF CONTINUED, COULD ENDANGER THE HARD ACHIEVED RESULTS OF POLITICAL DETENTE. THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC HOLDS THE VIEW THAT ALSO ON DISARMAMENT AND ARMS LIMITATION RESOLUTE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES MUST BE AGREED UPON WHICH MEET THE INTERESTS OF ALL AND WHICH MUST NOT CREATE UNILATERAL ADVANTAGES FOR ANYONE CONCERNED. WE ARE AND CONTINUE TO BE READY TO JOIN ACTIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY IN THIS ENDEAVOUR."

6. THE COMMUNITY OF SOCIALIST STATES REGARDS THE NEGOTIATIONS HELD HERE IN VIENNA - AS YOU KNOW - TO BE ONE OF THE FOREMOST TASKS IN CONTINUING AND CONSOLIDATING THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. WE, THEREFORE, HOLD THE VIEW THAT THE TASK UNANIMOUSLY AND CLEARLY FORMULATED BY ALL PARTICIPANTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE COMMUNIQUE OF JUNE 1973, TO AGREE ON A "MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES IN CENTRAL EUROPE", MUST BE BROUGHT CLOSER TO A SOLUTION BY INTENSIFIED JOINT ENDEAVOURS. IN THIS WAY MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN THE AREA WHERE MILITARY POWR IS HIGHLY CONCENTRATED WOULD BE REDUCED AND A CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS ENHANCING SECURITY AND STABILITY ALL OVER EUROPE THUS BE MADE. THE INTENTION MANIFESTED BY THE HIGHEST REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 35 STATES IN HELSINKI, TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE STEPS TOWARDS ENDING THE ARMS RACE AND REDUCING MILITARY CONFRONTATION, CONFIRMS US IN OUR APPROACH TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE TASKS OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS. CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE FIELD OF THE MUTUAL REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE ARE NOT ONLY IN THE INTEREST OF STATES PARTICIPATING DIRECTLY OR WITH A SPECIAL STATUS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT IN THE INTEREST OF ALL PEOPLES OF OUR CONTINENT.

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7. THE HITHERTO COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS HAS OVER AND AGAIN PROVED THAT THERE ARE KEY QUESTIONS WITHOUT THE SOLUTION OF WHICH NO EQUITABLE AND PRACTICAL RESULTS CAN BE ACHIEVED. THEY FOLLOW FROM THE AGREED PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS:

-ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUALITY THE INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING STATES MUST FROM THE OUTSET ASSUME CONCRETE OBLIGATIONS CONCERNING REDUCTIONS OF THEIR ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS.

-ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF UNDIMINISHED SECURITY PRACTICAL MEASURES MUST BE AGREED UPON IN SUCH A WAY THAT THE EXISTING BALANCE OF FORCES IS NOT BEING CHANGED IN FAVOUR OF INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPATING STATES AND TO THE DISADVANTAGE OF OTHERS.

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-ACCORDING TO THE CLEAR DEFINITIONS AS REGARDS THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, REDUCTION MEASURES MUST APPLY TO GROUND AS WELL AS TO AIR FORCES, TO NUCLEAR UNITS AND ARMAMENTS.

8. AS YOU KNOW, THE SOCIALIST STATES HAVE SUBMITTED QUITE A NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS THAT WOULD RENDER POSSIBLE A

JUST SETTLEMENT OF THESE PROBLEMS, CORRESPONDING TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL. IN THE COURSE OF THE HITHERTO DISCUSSION THEY HAVE MADE VARIOUS ENDEAVOURS TO ACHIEVE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE RESULTS. I REGRET TO HAVE TO STATE, HOWEVER, THAT OUR WESTERN PARTNERS SO FAR HAVE EVADED A JUST SETTLEMENT OF THE KEY QUESTIONS ON THE BASIS OF THE AGREED PRINCIPLES:

-THE DEMAND RAISED BY THE NATO STATES, TO ARTIFICIALLY SPLIT THE NEGOTIATIONS INTO TWO PHASES, WHICH SERVES TO CIRCUMVENT FROM THE OUTSET THE ASSUMPTION OF CONCRETE REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS BY ALL DIRECTLY PARTICIPATING STATES, CONTRADICTS THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEA OF EQUAL NEGOTIATIONS AND THE MUTUALITY OF REDUCTIONS. THIS POSITION IMPEDES THE WAY TO A CONSTRUCTIVE SETTLEMENT.

-THE ATTEMPTS MADE BY WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO IMPOSE LARGER OBLIGATIONS ON THE SOCIALIST STATES ARE AIMED AT CHANGING THE BALANCE OF FORCES, WHICH WESTERN GOVERNMENTS PROCLAIM TO BE STABLE AND BALANCED, IN THEIR FAVOUR.

-THE EXCLUSION OF THE AIR FORCES AND OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS WELL AS ARMAMENTS, DEMANDED BY WESTERN PARTICIPANTS, ENABLES THE CONTINUANCE OF THE ARMS RACE ESPECIALLY IN SUCH FIELDS FROM WHICH GREATEST DANGERS TO THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE ARE EMANATING.

9. AN APPROACH ALONG THESE LINES IS BOUND BUT TO COMPLICATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PRACTICAL RESULTS AND TO DELAY THE NEGOTIATIONS. IT DOES NOT SERVE THE CONTINUANCE OF THE PROCESS OF DETENTE.

10. COMPARED WITH THIS THE PROPOSALS OF THE SOCIALIST STATES, WHICH ARE KNOWN TO YOU, ARE REALISTIC AND REMAIN TOPICAL. AS YOU KNOW, THE DIRECTLY PARTICIPATING SOCIALIST STATES AS EARLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS IN NOVEMBER 1973 THE MEANS OF THEIR DRAFT AGREEMENT HAVE PAVED THE WAY FOR ESSENTIAL REDUCTIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS OF ALL 11 DIRECT PARTICIPANTS BY MORE THAN 15 PER CENT OVER A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS. IN 1974, TO BEGIN WITH, THEY PROPOSED TO AGREE ON AN INITIAL STEP CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS FOR 1975. THEY FURTHERMORE SUBMITTED THE PROPOSAL THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS CONJOINTLY SHOULD UNDERTAKE THE OBLIGATION NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES DURING THE TIME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. THIS YEAR THE SOCIALIST STATES SUPPLEMENTED THEIR DRAFT AGREEMENT WHILE TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF WESTERN POSITIONS. CONTRARY TO THIS, WESTERN PARTICIPANTS FOR A LONG TIME PAST HAVE TAKEN A POSITION OF WAIT AND SEE AND HAVE MADE NO PRACTICAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SETTLEMENT OF THE KEY QUESTIONS.

11. LET ME EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT DURING THE FORTHCOMING SEVENTH ROUND OUR WESTERN PARTNERS WILL CONSTRUCTIVELY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROGRESS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS. FOLLOWING THE FAR-REACHING DECISIONS OF HELSINKI ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE OBLIGED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS ACHIEVING CONCRETE MEASURES OF MILITARY DETENTE. THE PEOPLES RIGHTLY EXPECT US TO LIVE UP TO THIS RESPONSIBILITY. THIS HAS BEEN MANIFESTED JUST RECENTLY IN MANIFOLD WAYS BY STATEMENTS OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EUROPEAN PUBLIC. THUS E.G. THE BRUSSELS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION HAS DEMANDED THAT A TURNING POINT BE REACHED IN THE DIRECTION OF ENDING THE ARMS RACE AND REDUCING ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS.

12. THE SOCIALIST STATES WILL CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING IN THEIR POWER TO ACHIEVE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE RESULTS. END TEXT.

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